Between the Lines

The Christian Layman's News Bulletin

152 Madison Avenue
New York City

CHARLES A. WELLS, *Editor*
GRACE LOZIER, *Executive Secretary*

Vol. I. No. 1 January 5, 1942

The American Christian Faces a New War

To Our Subscribers:

This is the first issue of the CHARLES A. WELLS' CHRISTIAN LAYMAN'S NEWS BULLETIN for which you recently subscribed. We had announced that the initial release would appear about February first, but because subscriptions have poured in far beyond our expectations and in answer to many requests for an earlier start we inaugurate this unique Christian service today. It is an effort to provide a means for the hurried Christian layman to keep himself informed with economy of time and effort concerning the broader spiritual issues sweeping through the current scene. The next copy will appear January 19th and every two weeks thereafter. The subscription price, $1.00 a year, may be paid at your convenience between now and February 15th.

Nehru Released

Some interesting angles in the news from India concerns the British government's decision to free Jawaharlal Nehru, the great Indian leader, from prison. With war pressing closer to India, the British have found it necessary to relieve pressure on the Indian home front caused by the imprisonment of many thousands of Indian Nationalists who protested against India's being thrown into the war without the consent of the Indian people. The Indian Nationalists claim that 30,000 to 50,000 are in prison. This is vigorously denied by British imperialists. We believe that, since the British have placed an undemocratic and strangling censorship over India, the Christian mind should listen with sympathy to the Indian complaints and claims that are seeping through. Should not Christian thought stand for democracy and the freedom of man everywhere—even in India? Hitlerism must be defeated—the Democratic powers must collaborate closely—but our military alliance with England no more requires us to endorse undemocratic factors in British imperialism than our cooperation with Russia requires us to accept Communism.

The outbreak of war in the Pacific hurled America into the second World War. We are now a major part of all of it. We cannot but unreservedly condemn the fanatical military dictators of Japan for their treacherous attacks just as we have condemned the Axis aggressors elsewhere. We must now unite as a people, with our allies whoever and wherever they are, in the common cause of destroying the power of Nazism and its brood.

But we dare not, in the name of truth, fail to recognize that this new phase of the war, as with the European conflict, is the result of a long accumulation of evils. We must win the war, but if we ignore these causes we will lose the peace. We are in a strong position to win the war because we, the Democracies, control the vast majority of the world's resources. But we the Democracies are also in a good position to lose the peace, for we are ignoring the fundamental evils that have created the war. And when we say "lose the peace" we do not mean to describe a period of quiet, comfortable transition. We mean losing the peace in a sweeping storm of revolutionary explosions caused by nations in bankruptcy, millions without employment, angry disillusioned people—people in Pittsburgh as well as in Paris, in Boston as well as in Berlin, in Topeka as well as in Tokyo. It will be the task of *Between The Lines* to endeavor to keep you aware and informed of the development of forces, both good and evil, that will be shaping our lives in the tomorrows. The daily press and the radio, tied to the interlacing systems of advertising loyalties, industrial allegiances and political obligations will not and cannot do it. We will endeavor to keep before us in survey the large amount of documentary and informative material pouring out of Washington, the stories that are passed along from one pressroom to another but which cannot be published, the utterance of the labor press as well as the releases of the National Manufacturers Association. We will contact returning missionaries and newsmen, besides maintaining our own "listening posts" in important and strategic spots. Our aim is to make what contribution we can to the development of an informed, alert, thinking body of Christian laity in America. We believe that is the real and only hope of perpetuating a Christian democracy.

Will the War Last Long?

Will the people of Japan revolt when the pinch of war tightens? It is true that the Japanese people are already hungry and exhausted from four years of war with China, but Japan is a feudal nation with modern trimmings, bound together in a tight, simple, primitive tradition that begins with the emperor and extends all the way to the last peasant and the last soldier. Fatalism is interwoven with feudalistic obedience. Such people do not revolt. The Japanese people hate war. They were depressed when it came and they know they cannot win against the United States. They do not even hope to win a war against us. They had only hoped so to cripple our striking power by the first treacherous onslaught that they might have time to dig into a defensible position in rich Malaya and the Dutch Indies and hold their own against us until time might work in their favor and we might give up and go home. People who know Japan thoroughly are almost unanimous in the belief that Japan will not collapse internally. Military experts here seem to agree it will take us a long time to get into a position to give the Nipponese militarist a sound thrashing. The brutal truth (accepted now in Washington as a very possible darker side of the picture) is that the Japanese may succeed in cutting their way through to their objectives, leaving on their flanks only one or two Caucasian defense centers rendered impotent to obstruct the Nipponese thrusts. In fact, that (*Continued on last page*)

What Leading Churchmen Say About the War

What are some of America's leading pastors who have taken a vigorous anti-war stand during the past months and years saying? Here are some interesting check-ups:

Harry Emerson Fosdick, Riverside Baptist Church, New York City—"War is still the antithesis of the spirit of Jesus, but the church must not separate itself from its people and its nation during war. Now all as Christians should face the challenge and stand together on one platform—that all this agony shall not be wasted as it was last time. The church must demand more than victory, but a just peace."

Dr. Allan Knight Chalmers, prominent Congregationalist—"We all knew this war was coming unless we changed the trend of events. I will not bless or sanction a war that applied Christianity could have avoided."

John Haynes Holmes, famous pastor of the New York Community Church and a noted pacifist, declared his opposition to all war as a barbaric uncivilized practice unnecessary if men who profess Christianity would be Christian. Dr. Holmes repeated his move of 1917 and submitted his resignation as pastor to his congregation of distinguished New Yorkers to give them freedom of action if they did not want to accept his attitude on the war issue.

ON THE OTHER HAND: Bishop Manning, a leading Episcopal voice and long an advocate of intervention—"It is the hand of God writing again in history. We must courageously accept our part."

Dr. John H. McComb, outstanding Presbyterian—"War of defense is entirely justifiable according to Scripture. War in defense of one's home is entirely justifiable, according to the Bible," Dr. McComb said. "God permitted Israel to defend herself time and again against her enemies, and aided her to do so successfully. If the Jews had not gone to war their nation would have been destroyed. Christ did not teach that it is wrong to defend one's country or to be a soldier. Killing a man in battle in defense of one's land is not called murder in Scripture. I therefore believe that it is the duty of every citizen of the United States to do his utmost for the defense of this country."

The majority of America's pastors are giving a qualified support to the war. Loyal citizens, they recognize the fact that America is reacting to an outright attack and is morally and scripturally justified in taking action for defense. Most of the recent sermons have been calls to a deeper spiritual life in preparation for hard days. Many are using the war as an evidence of God's judgment, many are warning of the necessity of a just peace, a few are openly questioning how far the United States should go into the morass of Asia to assist in the defense of British and Dutch Imperialism; a comparative few are taking a complete non-cooperation, anti-war stand.

Do You Realize That—

A very interesting and very sound analysis of the Japanese action is circulating among specialists on Japanese history and culture? Japanese pride is their most tenacious characteristic, and that pride, most brittle and malignant among the military, has suffered a hard blow in China. To think they have not been able to defeat sprawling helpless China is unbearable. But if they go down in eventual defeat against the great western giant of America—in alliance with the world's richest empire—that will be an honorable defeat, a tolerable one. Their historians can then tell how they overcame the great continent of China but were finally robbed of their earned rewards by the intervention of the two greatest powers on earth.

Do You Realize That—

While you are worrying about our new war, our missionaries are marooned in Asia? Some of them may be in grave physical danger, especially those in the Philippines. In Japan and in Japanese-occupied areas of China, all are very much restricted and some are under arrest. Of course American authorities will make every effort to see that they get the treatment demanded by international law and all press reports agree that they are being kindly treated. Nevertheless these missionaries will be living lonely secluded lives surrounded by constant anxieties and perhaps dangers. Their mission boards are now cut off from them but are endeavoring to establish

Do You Realize That—

There have been some real explosions in Washington over the moral conditions prevailing in the environs of army camps? Surgeon General Thomas Parran and Dr. R. A. Vonderlehr of the United States Public Health Service have been fearless in their revelations, both spoken and written, concerning the threatening and inexcusable prevalence of venereal diseases among our armed force. It seems the bombshell centers upon the revelation that "panzer prostitutes" of smartly garbed girls in cars prowl the roads to pick up soldiers . . . that brothels run on wheels in this war . . . that trailer camps are populated by elder "parents" with unusually large families of "daughters." One gangster syndicate is organized with a great chain of panzer prostitutes operating in mechanized units between Chicago and the Dakotas. For further documentary materials write to the International Reform Federation, 134 B Street, Washington, D. C., Dr. Clinton N. Howard, Superintendent, or read *Plain Words About Veneral Disease* by Parran and Vonderlehr (Reynal and Hitchcock publishers, $2.00).

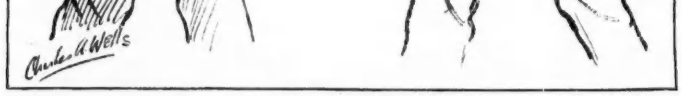
Do You Realize That—

The English production experts are now saying that it does not pay in terms of production to push work hours up too far? A report of war factory inspection in England has reached this country, revealing that greatly increased hours of labor gives greatly diminished returns. When the fatigue point has been reached, added hours only lower effi-

aries will be living lonely secluded lives surrounded by constant anxieties and perhaps dangers. Their mission boards are now cut off from them but are endeavoring to establish contact with them through recognized international channels.

Do You Realize That—

Among the efforts being made to change the attitudes of American citizens toward Russia is the appearance of a film in American movies called "One Day in Soviet Russia?" It seems to have been made with full collaboration between English, American and Russian (Art Kino) film companies with Quentin Reynolds of Collier's as the commentator. The economic and social differences between Russian and American society is studiously avoided. The idea put forward is how much alike we are in our machine-industrial ways of life.



CLIPPING THE EAGLE'S WINGS

This advanced system of life we know as American Democracy could not conceivably have been created without its strong current of Christian philosophy and the unique emphasis upon the supreme value of the individual personality which it includes. Take that particular substance out of our democratic concepts, and the soaring hopes of the common man fall to earth. Take Christian faith out of democracy and you have clipped its wings. The American eagle, the world's one clear symbol of democracy, is being trained for battle, its courage primed for conflict, yet those who are making the biggest fuss over this preparation are often the very ones who are guilty of clipping the eagle's wings. With a sneer of indifference they brush aside the spiritual elements of democracy and turn to the accounting of their profits on defense orders. Their attitude may cause us to lose our cherished inheritances before a shot is fired.

of war factory inspection in England has reached this country, revealing that greatly increased hours of labor gives greatly diminished returns. When the fatigue point has been reached, added hours only lower efficiency, lower quality and quantity per hour of production. Washington officials are studying this relative to the speed up plans in American production. American labor has insisted upon this scientific point for years—that shorter hours and better pay produces higher quality and quantity on hour-cost production basis.

Do You Realize That—

While every move for American people to be allowed to feed the children of war-cursed, starving Europe has been blocked, the Society of Friends (Quakers) are quietly carrying on their work of feeding over 75,000 children in Southern France? The Quaker workers report unbelievable conditions prevail this winter throughout the European scene.

Cooperatives, the Middle Road

The cooperative movement is significant. Watch it. Those who call it Communistic are ill-informed or untruthful. Communism is collectivism, state ownership and state control. The cooperatives are privately owned through individuals cooperating in ownership and management. Most members of cooperatives are Christian people. They believe it is the Christian middle road between capitalism and socialism. Many Christians denounce anything that is not absolute untrammeled capitalism. *Between The Lines* does not seek to convince. We only seek to report and interpret. We feel that the intelligent Christian should be informed on the general developments of the cooperative idea, hence we will report important events in this field from time to time. The extent of the cooperative movement in the United States may be gleaned from the following figures: During 1940, the cooperatives sold over $300,000,000 worth of merchandise. The retail cooperatives, with a membership of nearly a million people, operated through more than 4500 retail outlets. In addition, service cooperatives, with a membership of over 680,000 members, operated through more than 1300 centers for such services as electricity, medical care, lodging and board. And the credit groups, with a membership of nearly 3,000,000, operated through over 9500 credit unions, loaned over $300,000,000 in 1940.

A group of auto workers are planning to build a cooperative home community in a suburb of Detroit. Frank Lloyd Wright, world famous architect, has associated himself with them. They plan to build comfortable, adequate, modern five-room homes with their own labor at a total cost of $1500 for each householder. The name of Frank Lloyd Wright guarantees quality, comfort and attractiveness—the savings to the home owner will be very large, interest charges low.

Under consideration at the present time is the organization of a consumer cooperative among the Railroad Brotherhoods in an effort to balance rising living costs and irregular wage levels. Always friendly to the cooperative movement, the Brotherhoods may now translate their interest into action and thereby bring more than a million new families into the cooperatives.

What will happen to the millions who have been subsisting on welfare relief when war has pushed Government debt to the point of national bankruptcy and there can be no more money spent on relief? The cooperative movement is gradually proving its strength to meet such a crisis.

Movies and Morals

The new Garbo film, "Two Faced Woman", was pulled out of circulation for revision due to the kickbacks registered against its overplayed sex angles. Hollywood also never misses a chance to play up drunkenness. The way to stop it? Next time you see a movie which makes sloppy drunkenness the mark of the smart sets (whom the kids of your community idolize) stop at the manager's office on your way out and protest. Make them feel it by protesting in terms of boycott. That will hurt.

Agriculture and War

Thoughtful conservative farm specialists are expressing deep anxiety for what seems to be the inevitable role for agriculture in the war. We are going to raise an army of from 5,000,000 to 9,000,000. In spite of present farm surplus, experts say the dislocation of farm production caused by this enormous shift of man power will within one year create acute shortages of farm products. In addition to this we are attempting to feed Great Britain and China. The 2 to 3% increase of production planned for 1942 over 1941 will prove woefully inadequate. The farmer is usually against price control of farm products for he justly feels it will prevent him from reaping the rewards of higher prices being garnered already by steel, oil, railroads and even the workers with their mounting wage rate. Yet the farmer finds himself in a serious dilemma, for without price control the wholesale distributors are so well organized and so much more advantageously placed that *they* can milk the profits from the price boosts before these margins reach the farmer. Meanwhile the farmer's cost of production has kept a step or two ahead. Farm leaders feel that drastic steps must be taken or the farmer will carry much more than his share of the war load and be victimized in the process. This is a serious threat to the moral and economic foundations of the post-war period in America.

The American farmer's role in the war emergency is to an important extent going to depend upon the completion of several rural electrification projects that have been awaiting only an allocation of copper for (*Continued on last page*)

Religion in the Reich

Word seeping in to us from our own sources in Germany makes it increasingly apparent that religious conditions in the Reich have become decidedly worse during the past year. This is confirmed by the published reports in The Christian Century from its correspondents in Geneva. Great numbers of pastors and priests have been forced into the armed forces as an alternate to prison. The Christian Century correspondent reports that 86% of the confessional pastors have been sent into military service. We hear that religious young people's work has become almost impossible due to the lack of leadership and to the tremendous pressure put upon young people for war work of every imaginable kind during their free hours from factory or school. The Catholics are being put under increasing restrictions, forcing them to devote the major portion of their property and facilities for war work activities. This is being done to the point of outright confiscation. This is doubly strange in view of the Nazi propaganda that they are "fighting the battle of the Lord against Bolshevism".

Will the War Last Long?

(Continued from first page)

has already happened to an alarming extent. So far the white man has been unable to engage in more than defensive action. Regardless of the German retreat in Russia, you may count on it that new Axis thrusts in Europe and the Atlantic will quickly develop to make the most of the diversion the Japanese have provided. The Democracies are still about one year short of a production capacity that can assure the effectiveness of an all-out offensive. An Allied offensive in '43 is the talk now in authoritative circles. That's why the most dependable guess is that the war is not going to be over soon. The only thing that can change this would be a complete political upset in Germany, sweeping the Nazis out of power, with the German army leaders suing for peace. Our next issue will review that possibility,—and it *is* a possibility.

War Profiteering

Despite all the curbs the government has endeavored to put on war profiteering, excessive profits continue to be made out of the war emergency. An official in a Pittsburgh steel company told us that the boom in activities there was responsible for many new fortunes in the making and advocated real conscription of wealth as well as conscription of men. Public resentment flames highest against the "profit patriots" among those near to the government, such as Tommy Corcoran, recently under Congressional investigation for taking business advantage of his close relationships in official circles, and Charles West, former Undersecretary of the Interior to Ickes, who entered a court claim for a commission of $700,000 from the Empire Ordnance Corporation for negotiating $70,000,000 worth of federal war orders.

Agriculture and War

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wiring. The farmer's capacity to expand production requires more electric equipment, and in many cases this has already been purchased. However, it cannot be operated, although some 50,000 new miles of poles and equipment have been erected and await a quota of copper to start operations. The private utility companies have been charged in Congress with sabotage against the Rural Electrification Administration's efforts to get copper priorities and start their projects operating. Sen. Bennett Champ Clark (Missouri, Dem.) claimed that private utility companies were getting all the copper not required for defense classifications, despite orders for allocation of copper to rural electrification needs. Rep. John Rankin (Mississippi, Dem.) charged the utility companies in his state with having enough copper for building spite-lines to serve customers for whom the REA's lines, already built, but for lack of copper wire, would have been adequate. Rankin called attention to the overwhelming number of top flight private utility figures who serve on the Power Section of the OPM.

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Application for second class entry pending